

### **V. REMARKS**

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because of informalities. The abstract is amended to obviate the objection and a clean replacement abstract on a separate sheet is filed herewith. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-11 are rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,188. As discussed in more detail below, the claims are amended to place the application in condition for allowance as well as obviating the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Sudo et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/100812). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated in the Office Action, claims 12-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims are amended in this manner and are therefore allowable over the applied art. Specifically, the claims are amended as follows:

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the allowable features of claims 5, 7 and 12. Claim 2 is amended by incorporating the allowable features of claims 5, 7 and 12. Thus, claims 1 and 2 are allowable over the applied art.

Furthermore, newly-added claim 23 includes the allowable features of claims 1, 5, 8 and 13 and newly-added independent claim 27 includes the allowable features of claims 2, 5, 8 and 13. Additionally, claims 20-22 which depend from amended independent claim 2 include the features of the original claims 14-16. Claims 24-26 which depend from amended independent claim 23 include the features of the original claims 17-19.

Also, newly-added claims 28 to 37 include features not shown in the applied art.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition

for allowance and, as a result of these amendments, the issue regarding statutory-type double patenting is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Sudo in view of Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0185621) The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

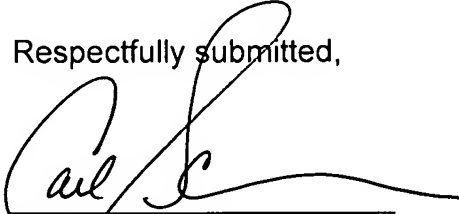
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of

the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 5, 2006

By:

  
David T. Nikaido  
Reg. No. 22,663

Carl Schaukowitch  
Reg. No. 29,211

**RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC**  
1233 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Suite 501  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 955-3750  
Fax: (202) 955-3751  
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s):       Amendment Transmittal  
                          Abstract of the Disclosure

DC257126.DOC